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X 19/12 Assistant Director for Operations
X Chief, ICAPS

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Ltr fr Acting Asst
Chief Signal Officer,
War Department, to
Director, CIG, dtd
17 Dec 1946. X

SUBJECT: Signal Corps Communications for FBIS

1. On 17 December 1946, the Director of CIG received a communication from the Acting Assistant Chief Signal Officer in the War Department which states that previous commitments for War Department traffic and an increase in higher priority messages indicate that all Central Intelligence Group traffic filed over Signal Corps facilities must be discontinued in the early spring of 1947. This reduction in traffic for CIG pertains only to transmissions from Europe to Washington.


2. The operations of the Foreign Broadcast Information Branch of this office will be very seriously handicapped if it is denied use of Signal Corps facilities. Its minimum daily communication requirements are as follows: From London to Washington via Frankfurt, 25,000 words; from Cairo to Washington via Frankfurt, 15,000 words. This daily traffic represents all FBIS coverage of European and Middle Eastern medium wave transmissions which contain the most valuable material presently collected by FBIS.

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3. To file the above traffic originating in London and Cairo via commercial facilities would cost FBIB over \$500,000 per year. The Office of Operations does not recommend that Congress be asked to appropriate any such sum for FBIB communications. To the best of our knowledge, there are no other government operated communication facilities that could be used by FBIB at this time. The use of air mail or transmission facilities other than radio teletype or cable is not practical since the result would be a time lag that would hamper the effectiveness of this monitoring service and virtually destroy its significant advantage of fast coverage.

4. In view of the above, it is requested that ICAPS present this problem to the Intelligence Advisory Board with a recommendation that FBIB traffic from Europe and the Middle East be given a priority high enough to enable its London and Cairo Missions to transmit daily 40,000 words over Signal Corps facilities. If the necessary priority is not practicable, it is recommended that the War Department be petitioned by the IAB to increase its Signal Corps facilities enough to allow CIG the use of one channel from Europe to Washington. Your attention is invited to the short time involved.


Brigadier General, USA
Assistant Director for Operations

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cc: return to Director, FBIB
Assistant Director for Operations (2)
Stayback

RM:edr

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WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief Signal Officer
Washington 25, D. C.

SIGCC-14

17 December 1946

Communication Facilities between the Zone of Interior and
Overseas Areas

Director
Central Intelligence Group
Room 2172, New War Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

1. The following information relative to the capability of the Army Command and Administrative Network facilities for handling Central Intelligence Group traffic is furnished in answer to your recent request.

a. From Zone of Interior to Europe.

No decrease in capability is anticipated. An increase, 25,000 word groups daily can be absorbed for an indefinite period.

b. From Europe to Zone of Interior.

An additional load of approximately 25,000 word groups daily can be presently handled, but previous commitments for War Department traffic and an increase in higher priority messages indicate all Central Intelligence Group traffic must be discontinued in early spring 1947.

c. From Zone of Interior to Pacific.

Based on present traffic levels, no curtailment in Central Intelligence Group traffic is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

d. From Pacific to Zone of Interior.

Based on present traffic levels, no curtailment in Central Intelligence Group traffic is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

FOR THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER:

/s/ W. O. REEDER
Brigadier General, Signal Corps
Acting Asst Chief Signal Officer

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